

A New Kind of Normal

February 14th, 2010

Living a Life of Action!

Our text today from the book of Luke has traditionally been called “The Transfiguration.” Peter and the disciples follow Jesus up on a mountain where they see Him with Moses and Elijah. All of sudden, Jesus is transfigured into all His glory. Peter, ready to stay on that “mountaintop experience” asks to stay. Of course, the men had yet to fully understand why Jesus has come—He is here on a mission; a specific purpose is before Him.

God had several reasons in mind with this event. First, it was God’s “seal of approval” to Peter’s confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God (Jn 1:14). It was also the Father’s way of encouraging the Son as He began to make His way to Jerusalem. The Father had spoken at Jesus’ Baptism (Luke 3:22) and would speak again during the final week of the Son’s earthly ministry (Jn 12:23-28). Beyond the suffering of the cross would be the glory of throne, a lesson that Peter would emphasize in his first letter (1 Peter 4:12-5:4). Even Jesus Himself indicates that the event on the mountaintop was a demonstration (or illustration) of the promised Kingdom of God.

But what is the practical application to our lives of faith? Is there some “transfiguration” in our spiritual journey when we meet Jesus? Listen in this morning as we discover the transforming power of Word and Sacrament ministry in the lives of God’s people. It truly changes us forever!

For Thought and Discussion

As wonderful as spiritual experiences are, they are not the basis for a consistent Christian life. That comes only through the Word of God. Experiences come and go, but the Word remains. Even our recollection of past experiences fade, God’s Word never changes. And, the farther we get from these events, the less impact they make on our lives. That is why the Father said, “Listen to Him!” and why Peter made this same emphasis on the Word in 2 Peter 1. Our own personal “transfiguration” comes from inner renewal (Rom. 12:1-2) and that comes from the Word (2 Cor. 3:18).